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you I never heard of your accident till the receipt of your letter, and I set off on the instant."

"Dare say you did—don't think it though. Hoped to find your old uncle at his last gasp, I've no doubt. Disappointed, mayhap; shall live long enough yet to tire you out. Sound at the core, Bob—no chance for you these twenty years. Took care of myself when young, and did not waste my health or money in drinking and raking. No Tom and Jerrying in those days."

"I should hope, Sir, my conduct would acquit me of any undutiful wish towards an uncle who has always proved so kind to me."

"Eh—well—perhaps it would, as you say I hav'n't deserved it, Bob. Don't think you are hard-hearted; never did. You are tolerably well as the world goes; only a little flighty. Young men, now a-days, are not as they were when I was a stripling. Bobby, my boy, just shift this leg on the cushion. Why, you scoundrel, you've crippled me. You villain, do you suppose my toes have no more feeling than a horse's hoof? Did you think you were handling a bed-post?"

I stammered out an apology, attributing my inadvertence to my anxiety to relieve his pain. This soothed him a little.

"Why, look ye Bob; you know I am naturally good-tempered, but it would provoke the patience of a saint to be thus cooped up like a capon, roasted, as I am, by a slow fire; drenched with drugs, and fed upon slops. But tell me what are you doing? How do you like the law? Fancy you like the play-house better. Prefer hopping at the Clarence-rooms to studying Coke upon Littleton—eh?"

"Sir, I never go to balls."

"Never go to balls!—more shame for you. Dare say you never said a civil thing to a lady in your life."

"I trust, Sir, I have not been deficient in due attention to the fair sex."

"Pshaw! I don't believe you. I know you are a shy cock; no more gallantry than a goose; no more spirit than a tom-tit—an animated ice-berg. Oh! when I was a youngster, the spark of a bright eye acted on me like a spark in a powder-barrel—I was in flames in a moment. Dare say you never formed a single attachment. Sorry for it. Should like to see you married, Bob."

"Perhaps, Sir, you could recommend me a wife."

"Not I, Bob; I never played the part of match-maker in my life. You must beat up your own game, lad, and run it down yourself."

"Then, my dear uncle, to confess the truth, so far from being the cold composition you imagine me, I am actually engaged to a lady."

"The deuce, you are; and pray who is she?"

I hesitated and changed colour.

"What are you stammering at? You're not ashamed of telling her name surely."

"Oh, no, Sir. Her name is—her name—that is, her name is—Miss Julia Fergusson."

He stared at me a second or two in mute surprise.

"Fergusson! No relation, I hope, to fat Fergusson the ironmonger."

Here was a crisis! It was in vain to repent my precipitancy. Sincerity was all I had to trust to, and I confessed she was his daughter. The effect was fearful. He never uttered a word; but I could see the workings of pride, passion, and resentment, as they alternately displayed themselves in the fiery glances of his eye, the flushings of his cheek, and the quivering of his lips. Opposite to his window there grew a sturdy oak; he turned his eyes towards it, and thus addressed me with unassumed coolness,

"Bob, look at that oak. When your strength shall be able to bend its trunk, you may hope to bend my wishes to your will. Fergusson! I detest the name, and all who bear it; and sooner than you should wed her I would follow you to your grave."

There was something so appalling in his manner as he uttered this denouncement, that I was unable to reply: But I was spared the effort, by the sudden opening of the door, and the entrance of an old friend of my uncle's, who

stopped suddenly, struck by the expression of both our countenances.

"Hey day," said he, "what's the matter?—uncle and nephew at loggerheads!"

"Here's Bob," replied my kinsman, "has dared to acknowledge a passion for the daughter of fat Fergusson, the fellow that—"

"Married your adorable, because you were too sulky to ask her hand for yourself. Well, what is there so wonderful in that? Julia Fergusson is a fine girl, and deserves a good husband."

"Very likely—but do you suppose I would ever give my consent to her union with my nephew?"

"And why not? Let me tell you the Fergussons are a respectable and worthy family."

"But their blood shall never mingle with mine."

"Look ye, O'Gallagher, you are an unforgiving fellow: your blood would suffer no contamination by such a union; and I can tell you this, that whatever animosity you may bear them, they always speak in the highest terms of you. Mrs. Fergusson, to this day, says you are the best-hearted man she ever knew."

My uncle's features here assumed a more complacent aspect.

"Answer me one question," said he, "can you deny that she jilted me?"

"I can. You might have had a regard for her, but it does not follow that she was in love with you; and surely she had a right to marry the man of her own choice."

"Humph! Well, I care little about that now. I hate animosity as much as any man; and Bob knows it was always my wish to see him happy; and if I thought they really wished to renew the acquaintance—"

I interrupted the sentence by putting into his hand the letter I just received.

He was much agitated on perusing it; and I could see a tear in the corner of his eye. He wiped it away with the back of his hand, and bid me reach him the writing apparatus. In a few minutes a letter was written announcing his wish for a reconciliation, and giving consent to the marriage. Our hearts were too full to speak. My uncle reached out his hand to his friend. He shook it heartily:

"You've acted," said he, "like yourself. This is as it should be."

I quitted the room to dispatch the letter, and in three weeks time became the husband of the ironmonger's daughter.

ROBERT O GALLAGHER.

Cork, Nov. 1854.

RECREATIONS IN MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

The following are answers to the two queries proposed in our last Number.

1. It may be easily found that the required number is 5040, which would require 15 years and more than 9 months.

2. The method of arranging the thirty persons may be deduced from these two French verses:

Mort, tu ne failliras pas

En me livrant le trepas.

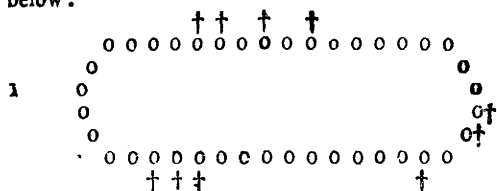
Or from the following Latin one, which is not so bad of its kind:

Populeam virgam mater regina ferebat.

Attention must be paid to the vowels A, E, I, O, U, contained in the syllables of these verses; observing that A is equal to 1, E to 2, I to 5, O to 4, and U to 5. You must begin then by arranging 4 Christians together, because the vowel in the first syllable is o; then 5 Turks, because the vowel in the second syllable is u; and so on to the end. By proceeding in this manner, it will be found, taking every ninth person circularly, that is to say, beginning at the first of the row, after it is ended, that the lot will fall entirely on the Turks.

The solution of this problem may be easily extended still farther. Let it be required, for example, to make the lot fall upon ten persons in forty, counting from twelve to

twelve. Arrange forty cyphers in a circular form, as below :



then, beginning at the first, mark every twelfth one with a cross ; continue in this manner, taking care to pass over those already crossed, still proceeding circularly, till the required number of places has been marked ; if you then count the places of the marked cyphers, those on which the lot falls will be easily known : in the present case they are the 7th, the 8th, the 10th, the 12th, the 21st, the 22d, the 24th, the 34th, the 35th, and the 36th.

A captain, obliged to decimate his company, might employ this expedient, to make the lot fall upon those most culpable.

It is related that Josephus, the historian, saved his life by means of this expedient. Having fled for shelter to a cavern, with forty other Jews, after Jotapat had been taken by the Romans, his companions resolved to kill each other rather than surrender. Josephus tried to dissuade them from their horrid purpose, but not being able to succeed, he pretended to coincide with their wishes, and retaining the authority he had over them as their chief, to avoid the disorder which would necessarily be the consequence of this cruel execution, if they should

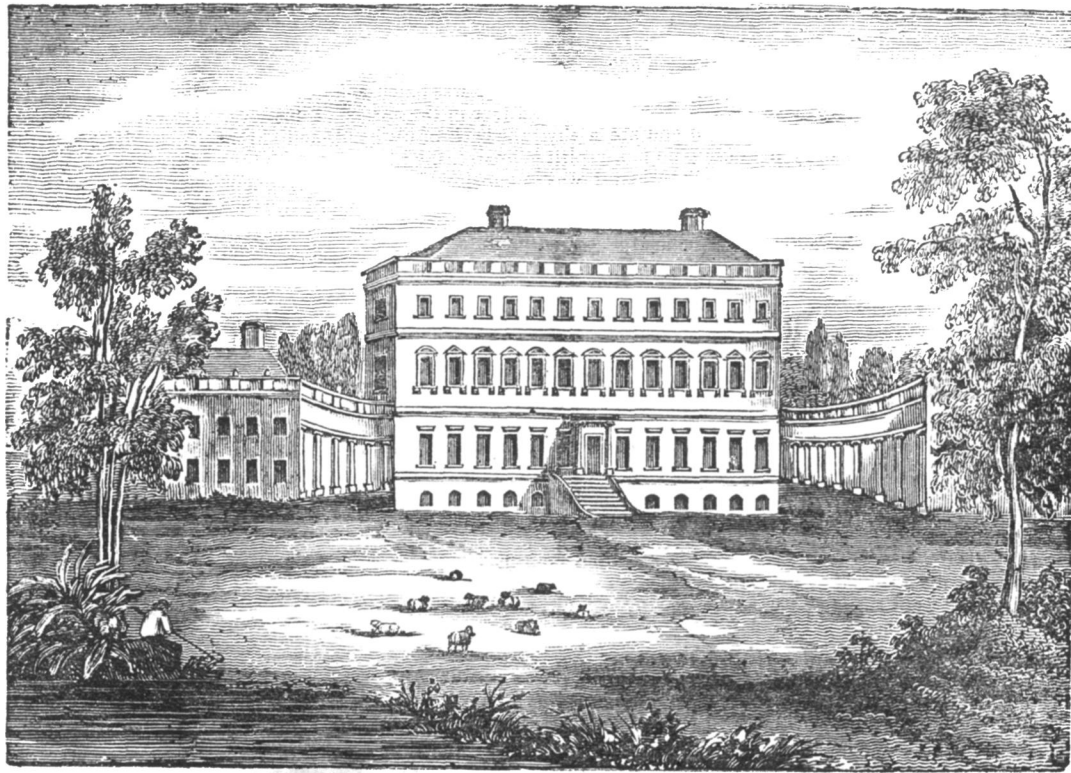
kill each other at random, he prevailed on them to arrange themselves in order, and, beginning to count from one end to a certain number, to put to death the person on whom that number should fall, until there remained only one, who should kill himself. Having all agreed to this proposal, Josephus arranged them in such a manner, and placed himself in such a position, that when the slaughter had been continued to the end, he remained with only one more person, whom he persuaded to live.

Such is the story related of Josephus by Hegesippus ; but we are far from warranting the truth of it. However, by applying to this case the method above indicated, and supposing that every third person was to be killed, it will be found that the two last places on which the lot fell were the 16th and 31st ; so that Josephus must have placed himself in one of these, and the person he was desirous of saving, in the other.

QUERIES IN GEOMETRICAL PROGRESSION.

1. A man has a wolf, a goat, and a cabbage, to carry over a river ; but being obliged to transport them one by one, on account of the smallness of the boat, in what manner is this to be done, that the wolf may not be left with the goat, nor the goat with the cabbage ?

2. Three jealous husbands, with their wives, having to cross a river at a ferry, find a boat without a boatman ; but the boat is so small that it can contain no more than two of them at once. How can these six persons cross the river, two and two, so that none of the women shall be left in company with any of the men, unless when her husband is present ?



CASTLETOWN HOUSE, COUNTY OF DUBLIN,

The superb and elegant seat of Colonel Conolly, M. P., two miles beyond Leixlip, and ten from the Castle of Dublin. This noble edifice, erected in the Grecian style of architecture, is generally considered as one of the finest in the kingdom. It is built entirely of hewn stone, and contains a range of thirteen windows in each of the three stories. A colonade, supported by nine columns on each side, joins the house to the two wings, which are each two stories high, and seven windows in breadth. The apartments are elegantly finished ; the grand stair-case is very magnificent, and ornamented with brass balus-

trades. The demesnes and plantations about the house are extensive and beautiful.

Here may be seen, amongst many other natural productions, the largest cedar and vine tree perhaps in the kingdom. The view from the house (owing to the quantity of full grown timber) is rather limited to the neighbouring objects. The river winds through the lawn in many a fantastic form, as if it were consciously struggling to avoid the manufacturing uses and dirty sewers by which it is contaminated in its entrance into the city.

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E. H.